(b) if so, the details of guidelines/instructions issued to private/foreign banks;

(c) whether the role of private/foreign banks in providing loans to micro, small and medium enterprises are under watch of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) All Scheduled Commercial Banks, are expected to achieve the target of priority sector lending, including small and medium enterprises, under guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which is 40% of ANBC (or credit equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher) and/or agriculture target 18% of ANBC (or credit equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher).

No direct penalty is imposed by RBI for non-achievement of such priority sector targets, which also include MSME Sector lending. However, disincentive for non-achievement of priority sector targets/sub-targets is by way of contribution of an allocated amount of shortfall to the RIDF administered by NABARD. This is obligatory for the domestic scheduled commercial banks, including private banks.

For foreign banks, the shortfalls are deposited with SIDBI or funds with other financial institutions as specified by Reserve Bank of India for such purposes as may be stipulated by RBI from time to time. The credit flow to the MSME sector is regularly monitored by the Government and forms the agenda for the quarterly meeting of the Finance Minister with CEOs of Public Sector Banks.

Price index for Government employees

1838. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sixth Pay Commission had recommended setting up a separate Price Index for Government employees;

(b) if so, whether such an Index has been formulated;

(c) the details of the commodities and services included in such Index along with the weightage ascribed to each service/ commodity; and

(d) if not, by when Government will formulate the Price Index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No time frame can be specified.

Increase in foreign debt of the country

†1839. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.